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Wednesday, April 27, 2016 metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroPhilly

NOT AS BAD AS WE THOUGHT?

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KNOCKOUT PUNCH?

Trump, Clinton victories in Pennsylvania primaries have front-runners closing in on nomination. 2

GETTY IMAGES

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3 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

APPLE REVENUE TO SHRINK BUT OPTIONS TRADERS UNFAZED

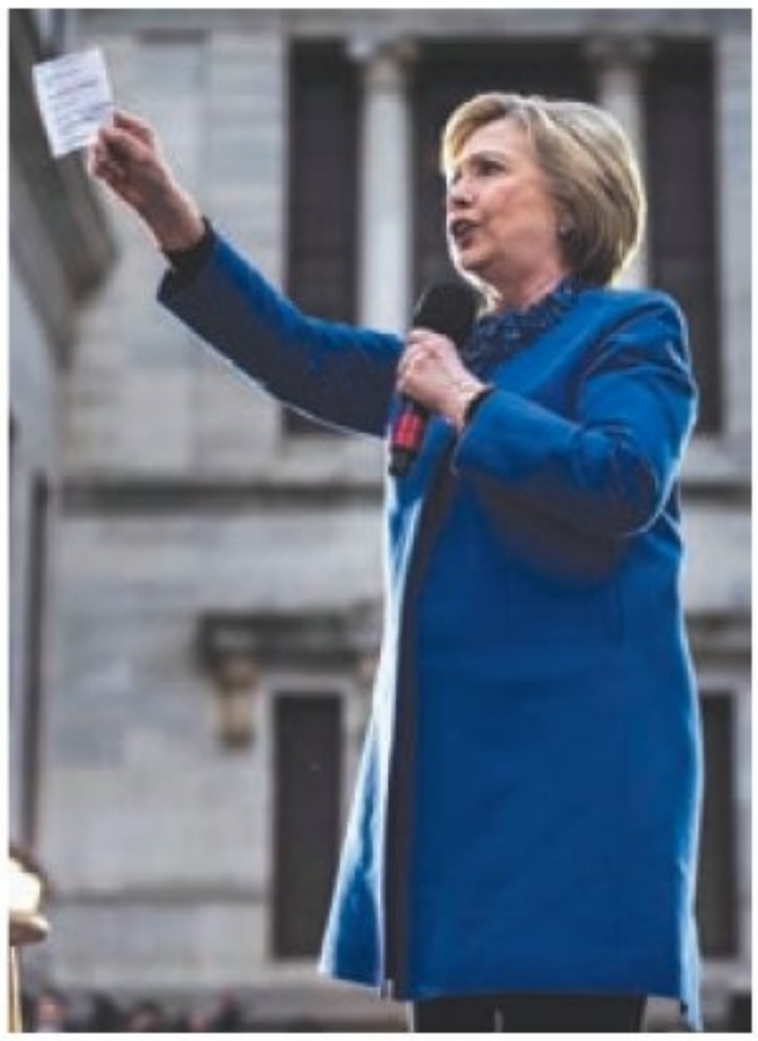
Apple on Tuesday is likely to report its first decline in revenue in more than a decade, and analysts expect to hear bad news on iPhone sales, but traders in the options market are not running scared. Relative to bullish bets, the cost of bearish options on Apple is now near the low end of the range they have inhabited over the last year, as traders await what they hope will be encouraging guidance — including a possible increase in dividends and buybacks — along with the weaker sales. When compared with 30-day bullish Apple options, the cost of bearish options is lower than about 85 percent of the time over the last year, according to options analytics firm Trade Alert. REUTERS

COSBY LOSES BID FOR NEW YORK MAGAZINE REPORTERS' NOTES

2 The comedian Bill Cosby lost his bid on Tuesday to force the publisher of New York magazine to comply with a subpoena seeking reporters' notes and other material for a cover story last year chronicling 35 women's sexual assault claims against him. U.S. District Judge Paul Gardephe in Manhattan ruled against Cosby's effort to compel New York Media LLC to provide access to unedited interviews of six women interviewed for the story who are pursuing a civil lawsuit against him. More than 50 women have publicly accused Cosby of sexually assaulting them, often after plying them with alcohol or drugs, in incidents dating back decades. Cosby is best known for his role as the father in the 1980s television hit "The Cosby Show." REUTERS

FORD WILL INVEST $1.6 BILLION IN TWO U.S. FACTORIES

3 Ford Motor Co. will invest $1.6 billion in two U.S. factories to start making a new automatic transmission and expand output of certain commercial trucks, the company said on Tuesday. Ford said the moves would support a total of 650 jobs but would not say how many new ones would be created. The announcement comes three weeks after Ford said it would spend $1.6 billion to build a new vehicle assembly plant in Mexico, drawing fire from Republican U.S. presidential candidate Donald Trump. Ford has countered that it intends to invest $9 billion in U.S. factories, as outlined in the company's 2015 contract with the United Auto Workers union. REUTERS



Trump and Clinton GETTY IMAGES

Trump, Clinton clinch Pennsylvania contest

The Republican and Democratic front-runners garner a string of East Coast primary victories.

Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton extended their leads in the Republican and Democratic presidential races in a string of East Coast primary wins on Tuesday, including in Pennsylvania, the day's biggest prize.

CNN declared Trump the winner in Pennsylvania within minutes of polls closing at 8 p.m. He later went on to win Maryland, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Delaware.

Meanwhile, Clinton took Maryland, Delaware and Pennsylvania, expanding her lead over Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, who won Rhode Island in Tuesday's contests. At press time, the race in Connecticut was still undecided.

But despite the decisive victories, it's unclear Tuesday's election delivered the knockout punch Trump or Clinton were seeking in taking out their rivals: Republican Texas Sen. Ted Cruz and Ohio Gov. John Kasich and Sanders.

The former secretary of state had an almost insurmountable lead of 275 pledged delegates heading into Tuesday's contests, and Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid told reporters he did not think Sanders had a realistic path to winning the nomination.

Reid said Sanders had run a "unique and powerful" campaign and he refused to urge him to step aside. But asked if he thought Sanders had a path to the nomination, he said: "No I do not."

A senior strategist for Sanders, Tad Devine, told The New York Times that Sanders would "reassess" any possible adjustments to his campaign after Tuesday, although he said the candidate would stay in the race.

For Trump, the Pennsylvania win, in particular, doesn't come without some complications, especially if the blustery New York businessman fails to get the 1,237 delegates needed to clinch the party's nomination and the Republicans have to hold a contested convention.

> *"He's too outspoken, he gets mad if things don't go his way. I think he should keep his thoughts to himself."*
> Taylor

Seventeen of the 71 Republican delegates up for grabs in Pennsylvania on Tuesday are allocated to the candidate who wins its primary. The other 54 delegates — who are elected directly by voters — are free agents, able to support anyone they choose at the Republican National Convention in July. Some have indicated they will access who to vote for during the convention.

The state features the sort of complex rules that Trump has repeatedly slammed for being "rigged" and that forced him this month to reshuffle his team to better compete with Ted Cruz.

Before polls opened, Trump kept battering the Republican delegate allocation system. "The whole delegate system is a sham," he said on Fox News.

Cruz and Kasich have formed an anti-Trump alliance in an effort to stop Trump from reaching a first-ballot victory at the convention in Cleveland, Ohio.

Former Republican presidential candidate Ben Carson, a Trump supporter, said the deal between Kasich and Cruz would backfire because it smacked of backroom politics.

"The people have sort of risen up and they've said we don't want all this stuff that is going on, all this intricate, backroom stuff," Carson said on Fox News.

But Gertrude Taylor, 86, who was voting in the Philadelphia neighborhood of Fishtown, said she cast a ballot for Kasich because he was a "down-to-earth man" and there was "no way" she could back Trump.

"He's too outspoken, he gets mad if things don't go his way. I think he should keep his thoughts to himself," Taylor said. REUTERS

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The school GOOGLE MAPS

Charges coming in beating death of high school girl

A memorial was held outside the school on Monday.

JASON NUCKOLLS
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Authorities could file charges before the end of the week against three girls considered persons of interest in connection to a high school assault that left a Delaware 16-year-old dead.

Amy Joyner-Francis died after the assault in a bathroom at Howard High School of Technology in Wilmington, Delaware on Thursday, NBC10 reported. A medical examiner's report on the death remained pending Tuesday.

"We did not want to rush to judgment," Wilmington Police Chief Bobby Cummings was quoted by NBC10. "We would rather take our time to conduct this investigation the proper way. Charges will be filed, and individuals will be held accountable for their actions."

Officials said in a 6ABC report they were awaiting the completed autopsy before filing charges.

"We need to stop the fighting — we need more security because this should not happen," Alexandria Rogers, a friend of Joyner-Francis, told 6ABC.

On Monday morning, a memorial was held outside the school, and classes were canceled Tuesday because of the primary election.

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Father shoots son following argument

A father shot his son in the chest following a dispute in Mayfair on Tuesday afternoon, reports said.

Police told 6ABC the man and his 38-year-old son started arguing while driving. That's when they pulled over and the shooting happened.

The incident occurred about 1 p.m. on Princeton Avenue near Sackett Street in Northeast Philadelphia, according to NBC10.

The son was taken to Aria Torresdale Hospital in critical condition.

A weapon was recovered and the father is in custody, reports said. It was not immediately clear what started the argument.

Handcuffs FLICKR

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Philly mom acquitted of charges for barring police from her home

Nicol Newman refused to let police with an arrest warrant enter her home to search for her son.

SAM NEWHOUSE
@scnewhouse
sam.newhouse@metro.us

A Southwest Philadelphia mom who barred detectives searching for her son from entering her family home had disorderly conduct charges against her tossed by a judge on Tuesday.

"For these people to do this to me, I'm so angry," said Nicol Newman, 48, after a judge granted her lawyer's motion for acquittal.

Newman was at her home on the 7000 block of Wheeler Street on March 9 when police arrived with an arrest warrant on burglary charges for her son, John Newman.

After she said he was not inside, Det. Timothy McCool asked her to let them search the home for her son. Newman refused, barring the door, and saying police didn't have a search warrant.

After a few minutes of back-and-forth, McCool cuffed Newman. She was arrested, held overnight, and charged with disorderly conduct.

"I am a fighter, but I don't pick fights. I fight when I have to," Newman said after being acquitted.

"If someone comes to your door with a warrant, don't get banged up yourself. Let 'em in."
Meehan

Det. Timothy McCool testified at a hearing in Newman's case that, in fact, the arrest warrant he had did give him the right to enter Newman's home.

"She said, 'You need a search warrant to search the house.' We all know that's absolutely incorrect," McCool testified. "We can search anywhere John Newman may be secreting himself, under the kitchen sink, maybe not in a drawer."

McCool testified that Newman "yelled" at him while he was on the steps of her home arguing with her behind the screen door as a crowd of neighbors gathered behind him and argued he could not charge her with "resisting arrest" if she was not under arrest.

"I believed she was possibly warning John Newman. Our element of surprise is over at that point. I don't want to get hurt, I don't want the team to get hurt," he testified. "I wasn't gonna get into a war of semantics."

Nicol Newman SAM NEWHOUSE

Newman was cuffed by McCool, who then radioed for a supervisor and a police wagon, he said.

"She was passively resisting. We might have had to Tase her or something," he testified, chuckling when asked why he called a supervisor.

Newman's attorney, Michael Coard, argued that Newman was not guilty of disorderly conduct due to lack of intent and the fact that her actions were all from inside her screen door, before Judge William Austin Meehan tossed the charges.

"It's not that an offense wasn't committed here, they just didn't charge the right one," Meehan told her.

Newman now is looking to get her record expunged.

Newman's son was arrested one day after his mother's confrontation with police and has a preliminary hearing scheduled for May 19.

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VOTING

Voter machine rejecting Bernie was actually just not turned on

A Philly artist posted video of a voting machine seemingly rejecting his vote for Bernie Sanders that went viral.

"Here it is folks. Voter supression in my own f----- neighborhood," Brooks Bell wrote when he posted the video on Instagram. "Hundreds of people at my location today were told that they couldn't vote for Bernie."

The video was retweeted more than 2,500 times after New York journalist Shaun King shared it on Twitter.

However, the machine in the video was not turned on, said City Commissioner Al Schmidt.

"It is a video of someone trying to vote on a machine that isn't on," Schmidt said. "If you look at the video, to the left of where the candidates' names are, there should be a red light on, indicating that the voter can select one of those candidates. ... We looked at it. It's immediately apparent that the voting machine was off."

Bell confirmed that, in fact, the voting machine just needed to be reset, and he was able to vote for the Vermont senator later on. But he said problems like this may have obstructed other voters.

"We have computers in our pockets. We're voting on these rinky-dink machines that have to work two times a year. ... They shouldn't be fraudulent, they shouldn't be faulty," he said. "I don't want to feed into some crazy conspiracy theory about voter suppression, but what I experienced, I just don't understand. ... There has to be a way to make this an easier process."

More than his own experience, Bell was bothered to see an older voter leaving his polling place at 10th and Thompson streets saying they couldn't vote for Sanders. That man had tried to use the same machine Bell used.

"He said, 'The guy I wanted to vote for was Bernie. ... They told me inside I couldn't vote for him," Bell said. "I was able to vote, but that was after causing a scene to get the machine reset. What happened after I left? Were voters still being told to leave?"

"I just want people to know, their machines can be reset if need be, and make sure it works properly." SAM NEWHOUSE

Fishtown native and minor league ballplayer dies at 27

Sean Murphy, a pitcher who started in the Oakland A's farm system in 2010, died.

SAM NEWHOUSE
@scnewhouse
sam.newhouse@metro.us

Murphy PROVIDED

"My dream is playing in the World Series with Fishtown on my back."

Murphy

A Fishtown native who worked his way up to pitching in the Oakland A's minor league system passed away suddenly on Monday.

Sean Murphy, 27, died on Monday, the Oakland A's announced. They did not list a cause of death.

"The A's are deeply saddened by the tragic loss of Sean Murphy," Billy Beane, executive vice president of baseball operations for the Oakland Athletics, said in a statement. "Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends."

Murphy was a Fishtown kid who played baseball at the Fishtown Athletic Club, went to St. Laurentius, graduated from North Catholic High School and was later drafted by the A's in the 33rd round of the first-year player draft in 2010 while he was at Keystone State College.

"My dream is playing in the World Series with Fishtown on my back," Murphy told the Fishtown Star in 2013 while prepping to return to spring training.

The 6-foot-6, 220-pound right-hander threw a 93 mph fastball.

According to the A's, Murphy "compiled a 32-32 record and a 4.26 ERA in 105 games, including 81 starts, in six seasons in the A's farm system. Murphy missed the entire 2015 season after undergoing Tommy John surgery on his right elbow in 2014. He won 11 games in 2012 and 10 games in 2013 and reached as high as Triple-A in 2014 when he made seven starts for Sacramento," the team said. Murphy was suspended for 50 games in February for a second positive test of a banned substance classed as a "drug of abuse," the Associated Press reported. The drug in question was not disclosed, but that list includes opiates like heroin and oxycodone, marijuana and cocaine.

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People wait to attend a House Oversight and Government Reform Committee hearing. GETTY IMAGES

Lawyers file $220M damage claim against EPA in Flint water crisis

Flint was under control of a state-appointed emergency manager in April 2014 when it switched its source of water from Detroit's municipal system to the Flint River to save money.

Lawyers for residents of Flint, Michigan, have filed a $220.2 million damages claim alleging negligence on the part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency contributed to dangerous lead levels in the city's water supply.

In a statement issued Tuesday, Michael Pitt said his firm Royal Oak, Michigan's Pitt McGehee Palmer & Rivers and others, had filed an administrative complaint Monday with the EPA alleging injuries to more than 500 people. They said they would file a similar complaint next week covering 250 more Flint residents.

Federal law requires that such complaints be filed as precursors to actual lawsuits against government agencies like the EPA.

The complaint comes days after two Michigan state officials and a Flint employee were charged with criminal offenses in the crisis.

The river water was more corrosive than the Detroit system's and caused more lead to leech from its aging pipes. Lead can be toxic, and children are especially vulnerable. The city switched back in October after blood tests found lead in some children.

According to the complaint, the EPA should be held liable for acts and omissions of its employees, citing an email from agency water expert Miguel Del Toral to a regional chief in June 2015 that said it would border on criminal neglect not to warn Flint residents about widespread lead contamination.

The complaint alleges past and future personal injury claims ranging from lead poisoning, rashes, hair loss, deprivation of quality of life, as well as economic losses and lost earnings. REUTERS

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El Faro's voyage data recorder located: NTSB

The recorder was found using remotely operated undersea search equipment, the NTSB said, adding that the next step was determining how the device can be retrieved.

The voyage data recorder from the ship El Faro, which sank in October during a hurricane off the Bahamas killing all 33 crew onboard, was located on Tuesday in 15,000 feet of water, the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board said.

The 790-foot El Faro went down off the Bahamas on Oct. 1 while on a cargo run between Florida and Puerto Rico. It was the worst cargo shipping disaster involving a U.S.-flagged vessel in more than three decades.

An earlier effort to find the recorder was not successful. Federal officials put hearings on the disaster on hold after two weeks in February, hoping that another search could retrieve the device and produce more detail.

"Finding an object about the size of a basketball almost three miles under the surface of the sea is a remarkable achievement," NTSB Chairman Christopher A. Hart said in a news release.

Searchers located in October wreckage of the ship, owned by Sea Star Line, LLC and operated by TOTE Services. A second search mission was launched last week.

The team will now work to determine how the recorder can be retrieved, and are exploring options and logistics involved, the NTSB said.

The stern of the El Faro is shown on the ocean floor taken from an underwater video camera NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD HANDOUT

"We don't want anything to become entangled in the mast and the wreckage around it," said NTSB public affairs officer Eric Weiss in a phone interview.

The NTSB expects the search team on the research vessel Atlantis, operated by the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts, to stay at the accident site until April 30.

REUTERS

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Sweden on alert for possible ISIS attack in capital: local media

Sweden has received intelligence about a possible attack on the capital by Islamic State militants, local media reported Tuesday, and security services said they were investigating information. They did not disclose details.

Newspapers Aftonbladet and Expressen as well as public broadcaster Swedish Radio, citing unnamed sources, said the information related to the threat of an attack, possibly in the capital Stockholm.

Expressen reported Swedish security police had received intelligence from Iraq that seven or eight ISIS fighters had entered Sweden with the intention of attacking civilian targets.

A security police spokeswoman said she would not comment on any specific details of a threat, but said it was working with regular police as well as national and international partners.

Swedish security police GETTY IMAGES

"Security police are working intensively to assess received information, and it is of such a nature that our judgment is that we can not dismiss it," she said.

An Iraqi security source said six Iraqis had left Iraq in February 2015 and entered Sweden via Turkey.

The ringleader is a veteran insurgent who was close to Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, leader of ISIS forerunner al Qaeda, and current ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the source said. He was imprisoned multiple times by U.S. forces in Iraq during their occupation.

"They want to conduct special operations to force Sweden to withdraw from the international military coalition [against ISIS]," the source said, referencing recent attacks in Paris and Brussels. REUTERS

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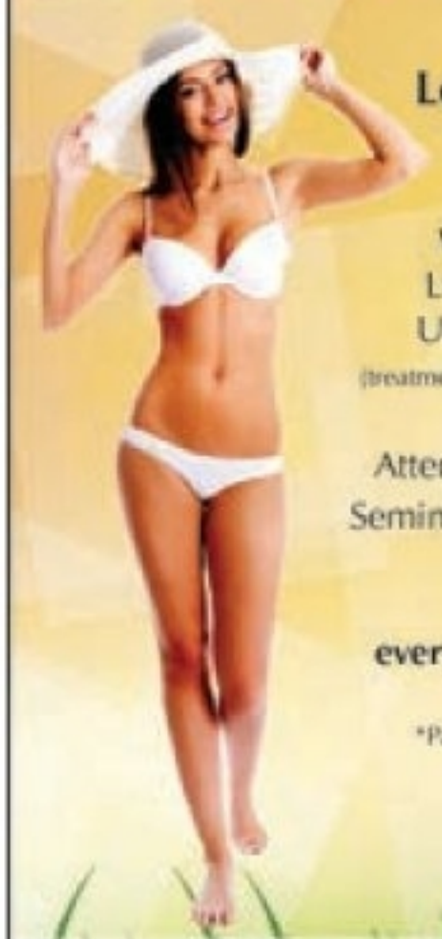

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Iphone GETTY IMAGES

FBI director suggests iPhone security flaw may remain secret

FBI Director James Comey said Tuesday his agency was still assessing whether a vulnerability used to unlock an iPhone linked to one of the San Bernardino killers would go through a government review to determine if it should be disclosed to Apple or the public.

"We are in the midst of trying to sort that out," Comey said. "The threshold [for disclosure] is, are we aware of the vulnerability, or did we just buy a tool and don't have sufficient knowledge of the vulnerability to implicate the process?"

"We are close to a resolution," he added at a cybersecurity event at Georgetown University in Washington.

The White House has a procedure for reviewing technology security flaws and deciding which ones should be made public.

Comey suggested the audit may not apply in this high-profile circumstance.

Although officials say the process leans toward disclosure, it is not set up to handle or reveal flaws that are discovered and owned by private companies, sources have told Reuters, raising questions about the effectiveness of the so-called Vulnerabilities Equities Process.

Comey's comments appeared to concede the FBI does not own the method used to crack the county-owned work phone belonging to Syed Farook, who with his wife opened fire in December on a San Bernardino, California, holiday party, killing 14 and wounding 22.

The method instead belongs to a still-unidentified third party the FBI said came forward due to the attention received from its public pursuit of a court order to compel Apple's assistance in unlocking the phone.

Sources have told Reuters the technology used to access the phone data was supplied by a non-U.S. company. REUTERS

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Kelly Ripa's body language is fascinating

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

As everyone in the Western world is aware, Kelly Ripa finally came back to work at "Live with Kelly and Michael" on Tuesday morning, a week after she was blindsided with news that co-host Michael Strahan was taking a job with "Good Morning America." And sure, she said lots of nice things about getting on with things and "starting a much greater conversation about communication and consideration and, most importantly, respect in the workplace." But it's not so much what viewers heard as what they saw that told the real story. First off, the cameras stayed trained on Ripa for her entire opening remarks, not evening cutting to Strahan when she specifically addressed him. He didn't pop up on screen again until they met at their usual high table. And once they were there? Hoo boy. Ripa's perky facade crumbled each time Strahan leaned in close to her or whenever he took over speaking duties. Not that we were necessarily expecting them to be besties all of a sudden, but damn. That was awkward.

Daily "Becky With the Good Hair" update

Will the real "Becky With the Good Hair" please stand up? Now, three days into the "Lemonade"-dominated news cycle, designer and private Instagram user Rachel Roy is insisting she is not, in fact, the "Becky With the Good Hair" referenced so cuttingly by Beyonce in one of her new tracks. Was it all the death threats from the Beyhive? That's understandable. But if it's not Roy — and we're all absolutely certain it's not Rachael Ray — then who is this notorious B.W.G.H? Well, maybe it's Rita Ora? Regardless of what you think of the quality of Ora's hair, she's been having a lot of fun with her fashion and social media choices, stepping out in L.A. in an outfit similar to the one Beyonce wore in the "Formation" video and posting a Snapchat of her in a lemon-bedecked bra. She posted another Snapchat later of her hips with the grammatically questionable statement, "When your the truth." We'll just have to wait and see how she holds up under intense Beyhive scrutiny.

@FINALLEVEL
Yep. I played a Kangaroo Mutant

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Dear Bernie Sanders, You are for the people. Great good luck to you going forward!!!

What effect do the "Neighbors" movies have on Zac Efron's love life

Time to put on my Celebrity Gossip Detective hat and do some digging into what hidden significance we've been overlooking in one of the week's big breakup stories. To wit: Zac Efron has reportedly called it quits with girlfriend Sami Miro after nearly two years. According to E! News, it was because the two "did not have the same feelings for each other as they did when they first started dating," and apparently Efron did the dumping. But could it really be a coincidence that Efron's first "Neighbors" film was released in May 2014 and he and Miro were first linked mere months later? And now, a month before "Neighbors 2" arrives, he dumps her? What does it all mean? I have no idea, but I'm sure Seth Rogen is behind it.

Anton Yelchin goes punk

GETTY IMAGES

It's Chekov vs. Picard in "Green Room," a new thriller that was pretty intense to make.

NED EHRBAR
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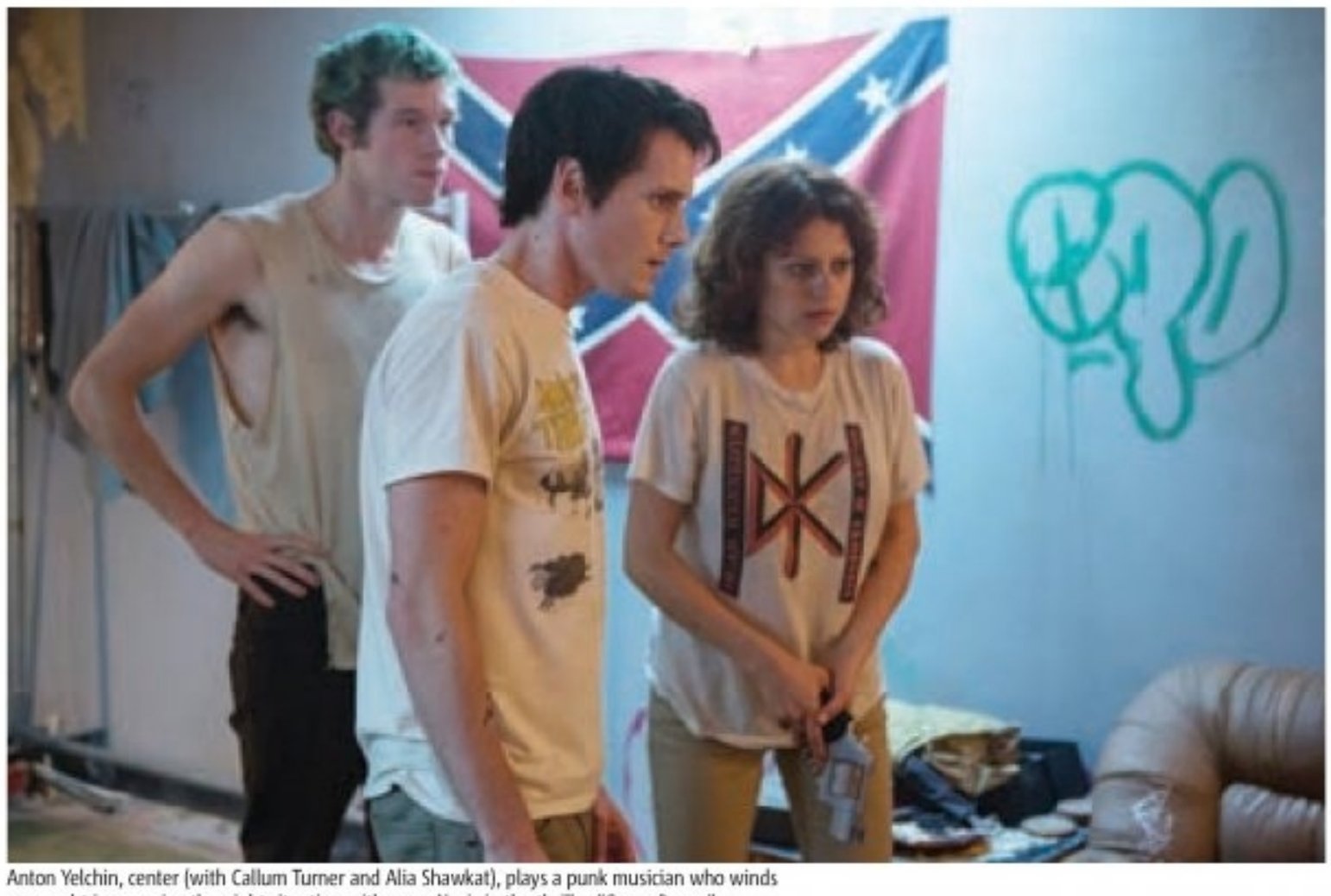
Anton Yelchin is scrappy, as actors go, but even he was a bit daunted by the cathartic filming experience of "Green Room." In Jeremy Saulnier's terrifying thriller, a punk band is trapped in a backwoods club by a bunch of neo-Nazis — with a menacing leader played by Patrick Stewart. Considering Yelchin plays Chekov in the current "Star Trek" movies, that's a real treat for fans of "Trek" cast crossovers. The actor, 27, plays the bass player who's among four fighting, tooth and nail, to survive the night.


Anton Yelchin, center (with Callum Turner and Alia Shawkat), plays a punk musician who winds up caught in a survive-the-night situation with some Nazis in the thriller "Green Room." A24

First of all, I was impressed with your bass playing. I was curious about how much time and effort went into making the band look legit.

Alia [Shawkat] and I have jammed together, and we had just worked together that summer. Callum [Turner] is also a real punk throat. Me, Alia and Joe got very close very quickly because we would rehearse on the weekends. The first couple of times I was like, "I think it would be good to take a day where we don't play the songs that we have to play. We just make our own songs, because we will learn about one another and grow together in that journey." And it happened organically. There was just a moment when we were all like, "You wanna f— around?"

From an acting standpoint, when you have a story like this that takes place in such a confined amount of time and you're playing such a level of terror, how do you come back into that every day to keep up the continuity of the performance?

I guess you just do it, you know what I mean? I think it's a deeply personal thing that everyone does on their own to get there on the day. Then you're just there all together, miserable. The thing that ends up happening is, because you're in this room together, you end up feeding off of each other. You'll be sitting there and I'll watch Imogen [Poots] just starting to lose it and it'll make me want to lose it and that'll make Alia want to lose it.

There's an almost overwhelming level of brutality in this, but it's a movie: a very controlled environment. Right?

That's funny, I was thinking about the level of violence. I was thinking about the dogs, for example, like how brutal all the violence with the dogs looks — how magically it all syncs together between the real dogs and how good they were and the way everything was done. It's incredible that the level of violence onscreen didn't translate into actual pain, beyond the [fire] extinguisher [spray] and pumping atmosphere into one room for a month. Beyond that and little cuts and scrapes, it was very safe.

So Patrick Stewart plays the big bad guy. I was curious if this movie is really supposed to mess with the heads of "Star Trek" fans, pitting Chekov against Picard.

There might be some Trekkie that might be coming up with some theory, sure.

Who do you root for in this if you're a "Star Trek" fan?

Come on. You don't root for the Nazis! I mean, what?!

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Alyson Shotz exhibit at PAFA

Think of metal sculpture, and whether the image that comes to mind is a general on a horse or a twisting, arcing abstract, the same adjectives usually apply: solid, heavy, imposing, rigid. Alyson Shotz turns those notions on their head with her sculptures — flexible, shimmering works that evoke natural scenes in gallery settings.

Shotz's latest piece, "Plane Weave," was created specifically for the Morris Gallery at PAFA (Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts), responding to the light streaming in from the skylight overhead as well as to the mosaic tile work that occurs throughout the Academy's Historic Landmark Building. The tapestry-like sculpture is made up of thousands of small pieces of punched aluminum and stainless steel rings, allowing the metallic piece to flex like fabric or rippling waves.

"It's almost a collaboration in a way between me and the light," Shotz says of the piece. "I wouldn't say my work is about the materials — it's about how those materials act in concert with physical forces of nature like gravity and light."

Alyson Shotz, right, puts the finishing touches on her piece. PAFA

While she laments that her busy career keeps her inside her studio or at galleries, Shotz spent much of her early life taking in nature. "I've looked at a lot of light changing over the landscape in my life," she says, "and I think that had a huge influence on my work."

"Plane Weave" functions in much the same way, echoing both the shimmering play of light on water. SHAUN BRADY

If you go

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‘Unpasteurized’ founders tell us why the Philly comedy scene is better than ever

Their new monthly series begins tonight at Milkboy in Center City.

A.D. AMOROSI
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Alex Grubard, from left, Eddie Finn and Alejandro Morales are the comedians behind Philly’s newest monthly comedy series. Photo: Daniel Mrazik

It would seem corny to start this story with the hackneyed phrase “three comedians walk into a bar, and…” if it wasn’t for the fact that this story is about three experienced local stand-up comics, walking into a bar (Center City’s MilkBoy at 1100 Chestnut) and kicking off a new monthly series, “Unpasteurized,” this Wednesday night.

Devised by two longtime Philadelphians (Alejandro Morales, Eddie Finn) and one Boston-to-NYC-to-Philly transplant (Alex Grubard) as part of the Laughs On Philly collective of comics, “Unpasteurized” is unique in that it splits one evening’s event in two. “Hey, we have the room for the night; might as well do something great with it,” says Finn. “What better way to showcase more.”

The “more” in question is what the trio delineated as the split between the 8 p.m. show’s “Cream” and the 10 p.m. show’s “Curdled,” with a screening of short comedy films from local auteurs between them. Morales claims that while “Cream” features “straight up stand-up comedians the likes of which you’d find doing sets at Helium,” the “Curdled” showcase is darker and more alternative, “with sketch troupes, performance artists and nonlinear humorists” taking the stage. “Tim Butterfly and Matt McClusker are finely honed and straightforward,” notes Morales. “Later in the night, there’s the art house sketch work of Matt & Jacque and Robert X, who is hardly traditional, more off-the-beaten path, say, like Steven Wright.”

What gives this trio insight into what’s funny in Philly is that, collectively and apart, the trio mined the Philly stand-up scene for 10 years. “We have witnessed a lot of comedy and hosted a lot of stand-ups, so we know what’s funny and think that ‘Unpasteurized’ is a great insider’s look about what is special in Philadelphia comedy,” says Morales.

Grubard has spent the most time in-and-out of this city and has a good idea what makes Philly tick when it comes to being noticed. He credits the local guys from “Delco Proper” and Wayne native Abbi Jacbson of “Broad City”, who both have shows on Comedy Central with helping put Philly on the map. Then there’s Live Nation’s soon-to-open Punchline Comedy Club across from the Fillmore and the upcoming Good Good Comedy Theater space that are also helping Philly solidify its reputation as a comedy town. “Comedians here are in it for the love of the game,” says Grubard. “Philly is fertile ground. You can hit the ground running here. A city like New York, there’s this constant influx of new people moving in every day — too many people looking to be the new alpha. Philly is less about the transplants. It is about community. If you want stage space, time to develop and to be part of a comedy family, Philly is your town.”

If you go

Laughs On Philly:
“Unpasteurized” – every last Wednesday of the month – starts tonight with “Cream” at 8 p.m. and “Curdled” at 10 p.m. at MilkBoy, 1100 Chestnut Street. $8-$10.
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Sibling synergy

Brother-sister act Wild Belle discuss their sophomore release and the merits of "Hang on Sloopy."

RACHEL RACZKA
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Wild Belle's sophomore album "Dreamland" dropped April 15, just 24 hours before Record Store Day — one of multi-instrumentalist Elliot Bergman's favorite days of the year. The pseudo-psychedelic duo of Bergman and his sister, Natalie, who sings vocals, and were at home in Chicago before their U.S. tour to support the album. He played some records for us (including a reggae cover of "Billie Jean," we've been humming ever since) and discussed the band's vinyl influences, DJ tricks and road fams.

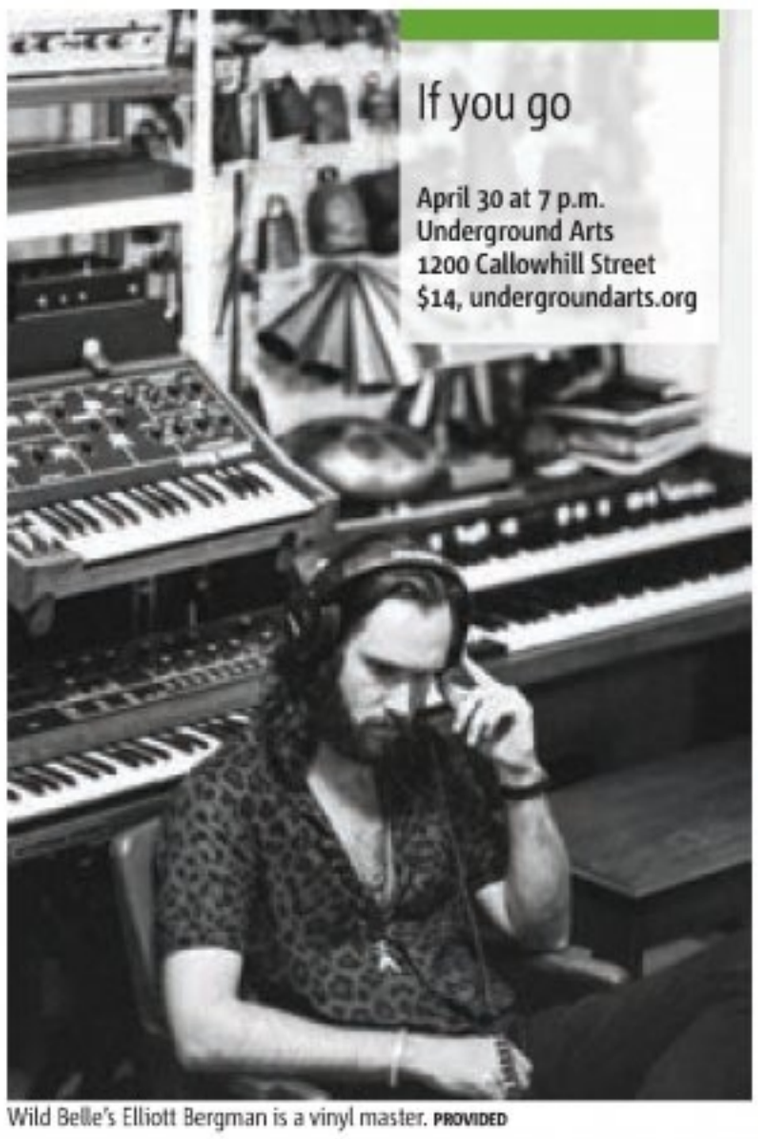
Following Record Store Day, what's your relationship with vinyl? Did you grow up listing to it?
Record Store Day is pretty much every day for me. I worked in a record shop all through college in Ann Arbor and am still very much addicted to buying records. But once you work in a store, it's hard to buy ones [elsewhere], because you're like, "This isn't a $40 record, this is a $3 record and I should buy it for $5." I went through periods of withdrawals because I was insulted by how much everything costs. Lately we can justify what I've been buying though because we've been doing a lot of DJ-ing. That's a pretty dangerous rationalization.

What do you play to get people on the dance floor?
There are certain songs you can't leave without because they're ingrained in people's consciousness, like "Miss You" by the Rolling Stones" or "Hang on Sloppy" [by the McCoys]. People just get so excited when they hear them.

Did your vinyl collection play an influence on "Dreamland"?
We were influenced by so many things on this album, like the downtown New York postpunk stuff like Liquid Liquid and ESG. Then stuff like this song called "With a Girl Like You" by the Troggs that I really love. There's an innocence to it that doesn't exist in pop music anymore. Like hopefulness in this thought — "Can I dance with you?" It's such a simple thought and you can actually picture the guy at a dance asking before the end of the night. When you think of a lyric like that being able to capture the consciousness of people's minds and be able to transport them, there's something really beautiful about that.

There's some dark stuff on this album, but there's hope, too. We listened to that Troggs' album and wanted to capture some of that hopeful stuff. We were being bombarded with lots of dark things in our personal lives as we were making this album. You have to embrace those things and deal with them in your own way, but you also have to be able to be hopeful and talk about love in a way that's positive and constructive.

I'm sure everyone wants to ask you about touring and making music with your sister and that sibling relationship, but does that vibe extend to your tour family now, too?
People always ask what it's like to be brother and sister. It's such a focus. Now we're just trying to open that dialogue and be like, we're all brothers and sisters and we're at a point in time that we learn to love to everyone as a brother and sister. There's so much hate speech in the political scene and people are trying to divide things up, so our understanding is that everyone is your brother and sister and it's important to reinforce whenever we can.



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Wild Belle's Elliott Bergman is a vinyl master. PROVIDED

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From museum-worthy vintage furniture to kitschy gallery-wall gold, estate sales are a design nerd's dream. That said, they're few and far between, and when you are so lucky to stumble across one, those Eames chairs are spoken for faster than you can say "mid-century modern."

That's where Everything But The House comes in. An online auction site, EBTH deploys buyers to estate sales nationwide, combs through the lots and auctions off items — starting at $1, whether it's a signed Warhol or a charming teapot — to lucky bidders.

"If a family is moving or downsizing or modernizing, we can help them reach a larger audience," says marketing and partnerships advisor Andrea Stanford.

"For buyers, there's something really special about seeing these collections and lives that were curated, about finding a great new piece that has a history."

With spring — aka moving season — in full swing, we asked Stanford for what old-school decor trends are finding new life this year.

Everything '70s

Although your clean-lined '60s finds will always be in style, the '70s are finally getting their due. "The '70s are a little more fun," says Stanford. "Sectional sofas, with their wonderful curves and colors, are perfect statement pieces. And swivel chairs —who doesn't love a swivel chair? It's classic '70s, even if you reupholster." Also on her list: geometric mirrors.

After years of mid-century modern, the playful curves and cheery hues of the '70s are getting their due.

Make way for bamboo: tiki is back.

Palm Beach

Think tiki: plenty of rattan, animal prints and large-scale florals. "It's perfect for summer, but it really works year-round," says Stanford. "Everyone's loving bamboo, especially magazine racks. It's surprisingly hard to find a good magazine rack these days."

Formal tablewares

The formal dining space may be endangered, but elegant flatware, stemware and little extras — candelabra, anyone? — are having a moment. "With new construction and renovation, homes are becoming more open, and dining rooms are frequently left out," says Stanford. "But people are hanging on to the formality in other ways. Even if you have a more casual table, or a buffet for entertaining, that doesn't mean you can't have silver and crystal."

The art of the estate sale

Estate sales and thrift stores are a great way to jumpstart or update your art collection without breaking the bank. "We're no longer just putting one large portrait over the sofa. To have an interesting, modern art collection, it has to come from so many places," says Stanford. "People aren't taking it so seriously anymore — it's an opportunity to have fun and show some personality."

No dining room? No problem — vintage tablewares add an elegant touch to informal spaces.

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Roomi makes finding roommates easier

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MEGAN JOHNSON
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Are you embracing the roommate life?

Well, at least you're not alone. According to a report from New York University's Furman Center and Capital One Financial Corp., the number of renters is slowly rising in Philadelphia, from 37 percent in 2006 to 44 percent in 2013. This means lots of Philadelphians are bunking up in close quarters with roommates — but how do you find a suitable one?

Well, there's Craigslist, but now: Enter Roomi, a new app helping people across the U.S. find a new home, or fill empty rooms. Think of it like OKCupid … but your perfect match is your roommate, not your boyfriend.

Roomi CEO Ajay Yadav came up with the idea after living with a variety of roommates throughout his late teens and 20s.

"I'd been through several roommate and housing searches. Some experiences were great and those housemates have become my best friends, but I've also had a housemate whom I rushed into living with without really knowing much about; I was robbed of my belongings and security deposit," Yadav says.

"We saw a need for a way to introduce a safer and more effective way to help people with their searches," he continues, noting more than 300,000 have used the app across the country. "More than anything else, we focus on making sure that we match people who have compatible lifestyle preferences, and we are there every step of the way to help our users find that ideal match."

In addition to providing key lifestyle details about prospective roommates (Are you cool with late night visitors? Do you care about dishes in the sink?) security checkpoints are in place so all listings are fully vetted.

With more and more housing units in Philadelphia being occupied by renters, the city is ripe for apps like Roomi, which cater to students and young working people. And with prices higher than ever, solo living isn't always that realistic for city-dwelling 18-to-34-year-olds.

Then there are those who actually choose to live with others.

"Shared living is becoming a desired choice," says Yadav, "not for only millennials, but also people of varying ages who seek shared living situations for a range of reasons, from affordability to the desire for community."

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Franco impresses, reinforcements on the way

Here's our assessment of the 2016 Phillies after the season's first three weeks.

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Prior to the Phillies home opener, manager Pete Mackanin said his ball club will be better than what the experts suggest.

It seemed like "coach speak" at first — of course he's going to say that — but through nearly one month of action, he's right.

Here are five things we learned after the first three weeks of the season:

1 Maikel Franco is the real deal

A little over 100 games into his career, it's become pretty evident that Franco is living up to the hype. He's off to a fast start this season, leading the team in batting average (.296), home runs (5) and RBIs (13) among other categories. Perhaps the most impressive attribute of his is his fielding ability and range at the hot corner. His throw from the seat of his pants on Saturday in Milwaukee will be on his highlight reel for a long time.

2 The bullpen will be in flux

Almost a month in and the bullpen is unfolding like a game of roulette. It's going to be a "next man up" situation all season. The shuffling beginning a few weeks back when the Phillies called up Elvis Araujo, then more recently, Andrew Bailey. The relievers have a 5.26 ERA in 68.1 innings of work. Despite the flaws on the back end, the Phillies' starting pitching has done well enough to limit the relievers' usage.

3 Discipline must improve

Maikel Franco has shown he belongs in the middle of the Phillies' lineup. GETTY IMAGES

To see where the Phillies are at right now, it's tough not to imagine where they could be if they had a little more discipline at the plate. The team has drawn only 46 walks, which is two ahead of Tampa Bay for fewest in the league. With more patience at the plate, the Phillies would be able to steal more bases, which they surprisingly rank 16th in the league with nine steals, and give their pitching staff more run support to work with.

4 Help is on the way

Cody Asche will begin hitting in May and a return to the field should soon follow. Asche isn't a difference maker in a lineup, but his .252 average and 46 RBIs from 2014 would be nice to have in the order. He would also help out the team's issues in the corner outfield positions. Aside from Asche getting healthy, the call-ups of J.P. Crawford and Nick Williams could both happen over the summer. That's a long way to go, but infusing the lineup with some youth should benefit everyone from one to nine in the order.

5 This isn't a last-place team

This has a little to do with the demise in Atlanta (10 games under .500) and a lot to do with the Phillies early start. Right now, the Phillies are a fringe .500 team ahead of both Atlanta and Miami. There are still the long summer months to get through, but this team doesn't appear to be as weak as expected. The rotation has shined early on for the most part while the bats are slowly coming around. Expectations haven't changed, but it's always nice to know there are a few teams behind you.

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Moving up to draft QB doesn't usually yield dividends

The Eagles are taking a big gamble, as previous moves to draft a quarterback have failed miserably.

ZANE STALBERG
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Carson Wentz could be just another big bust — but the Eagles think it's worth the risk. GETTY IMAGES

Just one year ago, Howie Roseman spoke at the MIT Sloan Sports Analytics Conference about the benefits of stockpiling draft picks. Said Roseman: "The more chances you get, the more tickets to the lottery you get, the better you should be doing."

And yet, here Philadelphia is, one week removed from Roseman's decision to trade a collection of draft picks in order to acquire the second overall pick in the upcoming NFL Draft.

Based on multiple reports, Philadelphia's intentions are to pick Carson Wentz, a highly touted 23-year-old quarterback from North Dakota State. As the man under center for the Bison, Wentz threw 42 touchdowns and just four interceptions in his two years as a starter.

Despite his impressive numbers, however, there is widespread skepticism surrounding his potential as an NFL quarterback. While Wentz has reached the top of the draft due to his mobility and arm strength, there are legitimate concerns about whether the low level of competition he faced in college will make him worth five draft picks.

That concern is legitimate — especially because trading up for quarterbacks has rarely been worth the cost.

According to Adam Jahns of the Chicago Sun-Times, there have been 14 instances, since 2000, of a team trading up to draft a quarterback, and the results are lackluster.

In 2004, the New York Giants traded up for Eli Manning, and in 2008 the Baltimore Ravens were able to move up and select Joe Flacco. While those two teams were able to win Super Bowl trophies, the others have had to deal with the repercussions of mortgaging their future to draft busts.

The best cases (aside from Manning and Flacco) saw Michael Vick (Falcons, 2001), Jay Cutler (Broncos, 2006), and Mark Sanchez (Jets, 2009) develop into solid NFL quarterbacks. However, none of them have won a Super Bowl.

The rest of the list looks as such: Kyle Boller (Ravens, 2003), J.P. Losman (Bills, 2004), Jason Campbell (Washington, 2005), Brady Quinn, (Browns 2007), Josh Freeman (Buccaneers, 2009), Tim Tebow (Broncos, 2010), Blaine Gabbert (Jaguars, 2011), Robert Griffin III (Washington, 2012) and Johnny Manziel (Browns, 2014).

None of those quarterbacks has won a championship, four of them are out of the league and of the few who remain in the league, not one is starting.

Wentz may very well end up as another statistic on that list of mediocrity, but the list is, in itself, indicative of why these trades happen. Quarterback is arguably the most important position in any sport, and it is difficult for teams to find one they believe in. So while Eagles fans may have preferred Laremy Tunsil or Ezekiel Elliot, if Howie Roseman believes he has found his franchise quarterback, he must take the chance that Wentz is an exception, not the rule.

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Playing from behind all season, the Flyers have only themselves to blame

The Flyers did themselves no favors by creating deficits, in games and in the standings, early.

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Steve Mason and Michal Neuvirth did everything they could in net. GETTY IMAGES

The Flyers didn't make things easy this season.

The team dug an early hole and had to spend late winter and early spring fighting desperately for a playoff spot.

"I mean, you want to get in the playoffs through the whole season," Jakub Voracek said. "We were 9 [points] out of the playoffs, but we still dug in. We lost in the playoffs, 3-0, to the best team in the league. We came back hard, 3-2, playing at home. The fans were great. It's very upsetting we couldn't pull it off."

They were a young team in transition and extremely inconsistent. But when they focused and were able to play 60 minutes of playoff-caliber hockey, the Flyers deserved to be in the postseason (even though many experts surmised they wouldn't be ready until at least next season).

The Flyers played eight intense periods of hockey on home ice (ignoring the infamous Period 3 of Game 3). The team was proud when the home fans gave them a standing ovation at the end of Sunday's 1-0 elimination loss.

"It was amazing," Voracek said. "They've been behind us all season long. I'm glad that after we went down 3-0, we could play three games at home. Like I said, it's too bad we couldn't pull it off. I can guarantee we left everything out there."

The offseason will be a chance for Flyers stars to get healthy and to improve on their own — something Voracek is looking to do after a disappointing 2015-16 season following his career year in 2014-15.

"Can't be much worse than it was this year, and the beginning of the season," the winger said. "I'm going to do what I did the last two summers: go to Montreal and work hard. There's a World Cup in September. Get ready for that. And we got to catch the start next year because we were chasing all season long. If you have a good start to the season, it's always easier."

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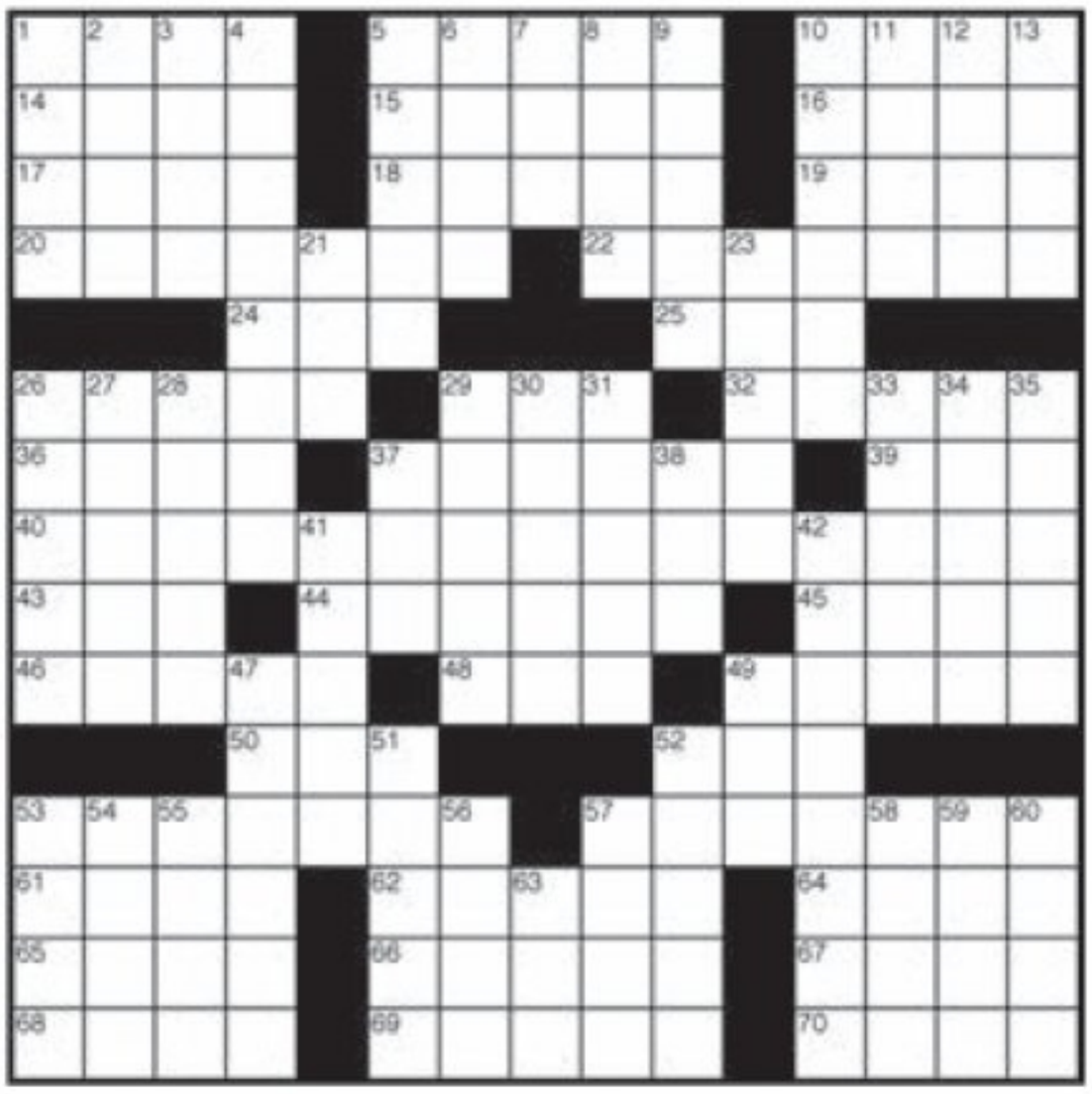

Across

1 Kind of dive
5 Dream stealer
10 Applies makeup
14 Oblong tomato
15 Brownish pigment
16 Grand Ole —
17 Bloke's streetcar
18 Street sign
19 Bridge section
20 Wings
22 Gulf of Mexico pirate
24 Morse click
25 Beauty pack
26 Toulouse-Lautrec
29 Flat-tire sound
32 Einstein won one
36 Bogus butter
37 Novel closer (var.)
39 Wallach or Lilly
40 Popular takeouts (2 wds.)
43 Spanish queen
44 Dojo practice
45 Shoved off
46 — Lama
48 Opposite of 'tain't
49 Coats with gold
50 TV news source
52 A Muppet
53 Plundered
57 Nearly fell
61 Attired
62 Tiff (hyph.)
64 Libretto feature
65 Chevalier's theme
66 Heavy for its size
67 Crocus "bulb"
68 Family man
69 Warrior's horse
70 Troublesome joint

Down

1 Baja Ms.
2 Shabby
3 "— — for All Seasons"
4 Try to impress
5 So far (2 wds.)
6 Oahu wreaths
7 Imitate
8 Lunar valley
9 "—, I'm Adam"
10 Square dance call (hyph.)
11 Dr.'s visit
12 Neighbor's kid
13 End of a 1/1 song
21 Livy's dozen
23 Mold and mildew
26 Felt optimistic
27 Ms. Verdugo
28 Hindu kingdom
29 Part of SUV
30 Red Sea peninsula
31 Gill openings
33 Watch rim
34 Spiral-horned antelope
35 Inventories
37 Historical period
38 Unfold, in verse
41 Barely scraping by
42 Crisp toast
47 "Evangeline" setting
49 Lump
51 Bookish types
52 Dazed, with "out"
53 Sgt. Preston's grp.
54 Et — (and others)
55 Mae West persona
56 It takes 4 hands
57 Advisable
58 — — Hubbard
59 Ireland
60 Dench title
63 Compass pt.

metro.us/sudoku

easy

3	6	5	7		2			
	1	9						3
				4			6	
			3		5			6
5	2			7			9	1
8			9		4			
	9			5				
6						1	8	
			8		7	9	2	4

hard

		6			5	9		
	7			1			2	
			8			1	4	
			5	9	1		8	
	5	9		7		2	6	
	3		2	6	8			
	6	5			2			
	2			5			1	
		7	6			5		

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries Your emotions will cause problems if you don't listen to reason. You are better off taking time out to do something physically challenging to ward off anxiety. Offer affection, not discord.

Taurus Do what comes naturally. Set the standard and follow through. Opportunity and personal growth are highlighted. Hard work will allow you to live your dream.

Gemini Don't share personal information or trust others to take care of your affairs. It's important that you stay on top of things, with an alternative strategy in place as a backup.

Cancer If you share your ideas and concerns, you will make a difference. A unique opportunity will develop that will improve your home and family life. Don't fear change. Be fair, but firm.

Leo Make a move that will change your status or position. The choices you make can alter the way you feel and look, and contribute to a healthier, more efficient lifestyle.

Virgo A business trip or meeting will help you persuade others to do and see things your way. Your greatest opportunities will come outside your immediate circle or home.

Libra The changes you make will not please everyone, but they will bring you more confidence and help you stabilize your life. Don't look back when you should be moving forward.

Scorpio Share your ideas with someone who understands you. The feedback you receive will encourage you to develop a partnership that will bring out the best in both parties.

Sagittarius Make changes at home that will add to your comfort. Putting your personal touch behind your plans, along with hard work, will be satisfying and a good investment.

Capricorn Don't make assumptions or jump to conclusions. Listen, observe and discuss situations calmly in order to come up with workable solutions that benefit everyone involved.

Aquarius When it comes to work and money, you need to set high standards. Don't donate to outside causes when you should be funneling cash into your home and family.

Pisces Draw up contracts and deal with personal financial matters diligently. Don't let anyone interfere in your affairs. Don't feel guilty if an opportunity comes your way. **EUGENIA LAST**

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